

May 10, 2012

Dear Ways and Means Committee,

I, Lacey Tiemann, Project Manager and Attorney with Cielo Wind Services, Inc., respectfully urge Congress to extend the wind energy Production Tax Credit (PTC) immediately.

Congress' delay in extending the production tax credit creates a devastating ripple effect throughout the entire wind energy industry. The uncertainty in the financial marketplace causes project financiers and investors to become reluctant to back development. When project financing dries up, turbine suppliers respond by limiting the supply chain. With no financial backing or turbines to build projects, development comes to a halt. As a result, wind companies and manufacturers are forced to lay off their workforce, effecting millions of families across the United States. In fact, the American Wind Energy Association estimates that a full 37,000 Americans face layoffs this year if the PTC is not extended immediately (*see* http://www.awea.org/newsroom/pressreleases/Release_02-06-11.cfm).

It is also imperative for Congress to understand that wind energy development plays a vital role in revitalizing the economies of rural communities. Wind development provides construction jobs initially followed by maintenance jobs in the long term. Wind development also generates revenue for community schools and hospitals over the lifetime of the project. In addition to job creation and local economic stimulus, wind energy development increases the amount of energy that our country gets from renewable resources, which is important to our energy independence as a nation.

I urge the committee to take up an extension of the wind energy Production Tax Credit right away. Not only do thousands of American jobs hang in the balance, but the overall goal of energy independence remains at stake.

Sincerely,

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